

COURSE OUTLINE:
MONTANA DROUGHT READY COMMUNITIES
Offered through the
Missouri Headwaters Drought Resilience Demonstration Project

Through this course, participants will work with national, state and local experts to develop approaches for drought in their communities. Instructors will cover course materials during monthly two-hour interactive webinars. Homework assigned between the classes will offer opportunities to assemble and review relevant information that will be used in the development of a local drought planning outline. Most importantly, these outlines will identify mitigation and response strategies geared towards building long-term resiliency. Relying on a consistent drought planning template will facilitate development of a regional drought plan for the Upper Missouri Headwaters.

February 23
10 am - noon

Drought Planning and the Missouri Headwaters
Chad McNutt, National Integrated Drought Information System

This class will provide an overview of the drought planning process, describing the benefits of developing a drought plan and outlining the core elements of a plan. Methods for engaging the community in the planning process, identifying key stakeholders, and evaluating linkages to other planning documents will also be discussed.

March 22

Understanding Water, Climate and Drought in the Community
Mark Svoboda, National Drought Mitigation Center

This class will focus on the process for gathering data on drought indicators (e.g., snowpack, streamflow, soil moisture, precipitation) and tools to synthesize the information to understand current and historic local drought conditions.

April 12

Vulnerability Assessment
Speaker: TBD

Identification of drought vulnerabilities is a key step in the drought planning process. During this webinar, participants will learn how to identify vulnerabilities within their watershed.

May 3

Developing Response and Mitigation Plans
Speaker: TBD

This class will discuss approaches to prioritize vulnerabilities and share techniques for developing response and mitigation plans. Local case examples will provide real-world examples about how response plans implemented in Montana have helped communities respond to drought.

May 24

Drought Communication and Outreach in the Community
Speaker: TBD

Successful drought plans are based on having the community invested in the process. This class will discuss methods and tools for communicating the benefits of a drought plan to the community and outline other approaches for engaging the community in future revisions to the plan.